

From: Amato, Paul
Sent: Thur 3/10/2016 8:32:05 PM
Subject: Water Weekly Report for the Week Ending March 11, 2016

Also available at the Water Division SharePoint Site:

<https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/R9/WTR>

(note: the RA reads the Divisional weeklies the following Monday which is why the items listed under 'Last Week' are for activities occurring this week and 'Significant Items for This Week' are items for next week.)

WEEKLY REPORT

Region 9

Environmental Protection Agency

Week Ending March 11, 2016

Water Division

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Significant Items from Last Week (March 7 – 11)

EPA Approves Santa Maria Watershed Nutrients TMDLs: We are approving the Santa Maria watershed nutrients TMDLs from the Central Coast Regional Water Board. The TMDLs establish concentration-based wasteload allocations for nitrate, orthophosphate, and ammonia for the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties municipal separate storm sewer system discharges, and various agricultural land users in the watershed. The TMDLs protect beneficial uses, such as municipal drinking water, groundwater recharge, cold and warm water habitats, and fish spawning. (Parrish, 2-3456)

Reviewing California Aquifer Exemption Request: Water Division and ORC met with

the California Division of Oil and Gas and with State Regional Water Board representatives on March 8th to discuss the state's request for EPA to approve an expansion of the existing aquifer exemption in the Arroyo Grande oil field in San Luis Obispo County. There are a number of unresolved issues with the submittal and additional follow-up meetings will take place in the next two weeks to resolve them. The Arroyo Grande aquifer exemption request is the first of dozens we expect to receive in advance of the agreed-upon February 2017 shut-in date for Class II wells injecting into non-exempt aquifers. (Albright, 2-3971)

EPA Engages in Updating San Francisco Public Utility District's Strategic Plan:

On March 9th we will participate on an expert panel to update SFPUC's Water Quality Strategic Plan to address short-term and longer-term water quality issues and facilitate SFPUC's regulatory compliance. The updated strategic plan is expected to be finalized in May. (Macler, 2-3569)

Government Accountability Office Audit of Lead in Drinking Water: We participated in a pre-meeting with EPA Headquarters Offices (OGC, OW, OECA) in preparation for the March 10th, entrance meeting with GAO on EPA oversight of states and water system compliance with lead in drinking water regulations. Regions have been invited to participate in the conference call. (Li, 2-3560)

Mid-Year Review with Nevada Drinking Water Program: On March 11th, we will meet with Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water for a mid-year program review. Staff and managers from Water and Enforcement divisions will also attend by phone. This will be our first review since My-Linh Nguyen, became the new Bureau Chief. (Jenzen, 2-3570)

Significant Items for This Week (March 14 – 18)

Bi-Monthly EPA-California State Water Board Convening: On March 18th we'll host the bimonthly coordination meeting with senior managers from the California State Water Resources Control Board. The agenda will include discussions ranging from Bay-Delta, ULOs, source water protection, Lead and Copper Rule implementation and Imperial Valley residential use of irrigation canal water. Discussions will also include grants management and policy matters spanning Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act programs. (Kemmerer, 4-1832)

Significant Items for Next 2-3 Weeks

Regional Review of Urban Waters Small Grants: A Region 9 multi-division panel will complete ranking of Urban Waters Small Grants proposals by March 9th followed by a briefing on recommended projects for the Division Director as Region 9 Selection Official. This grant program helps local organizations and individuals, particularly in underserved communities, restore urban waters and benefit revitalization efforts. Final selections will be made by March 22nd. Two proposals are anticipated to be funded at about \$60,000 each. (Vollmer, 2-3447)

EPA and California Convening on Bay-Delta: On March 25th, EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) will convene a high level meeting between the Regional Administrator and the Chair of the Water Board to develop a state-federal strategy on addressing the complex and challenging water quality issues in the Bay-Delta. (Torres, 2-3337)

Travel, Training, Public/National Meetings and Speaking Engagements

Significant Items in 30-60 Days

Grant Announcements

Legislative Engagement

Meeting with Hong Kong Legislators on Controlling Chemicals in Drinking Water: On March 11th we will meet with Dr. Wong, a Hong Kong legislator, and Melinda Meador, Director of the USDA Agricultural Trade Office at the US Consulate in Hong Kong, to discuss federal programs to control chemical contamination of drinking water supplies. They are specifically interested in U.S. regulatory oversight of water supply safety with particular reference to metals contamination. They will be accompanied by

Caroline Yuen from the Agricultural Trade Office of the American Consulate General, Hong Kong. (Li, 2-3560 & Kao, 2-3922)

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Other Information

Division Director Schedule (March 14 – March 18): Tomás Torres will be in all week.